

REMARKS

The Office Action of April 17, 2006 presents the examination of claims 1-6, 8, 10-15 and 17. Claims 7, 9 and 16 are withdrawn from consideration. The present paper cancels claims 1, 3-7, 9-11 and 13-16. Claims 2, 8, 12 and 17 remain pending.

In view of the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and allow the pending claims.

Issues Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Iizumi et al. (JP 10-179817) in view of Knuth (USPN 6,659,885) and Helmstetter et al. (USPN 6,325,728) further in view of Hasebe et al. (USPN 6,340,337) and Sanpei (JP 11-155982). Applicant respectfully traverses.

Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-6, 10, 11 and 13-15 are canceled. Accordingly, this rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

At page 4 of the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has indicated that claims 2, 8, 12 and 17 are allowed. Applicant respectfully points out that these are the only claims which remain pending. Accordingly, the present application should be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is thus requested to issue a Notice of Allowability directed to claims 2, 8, 12 and 17.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Mark J. Nuell (Reg. No. 36,623) at


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Reply to Office Action of April 17, 2006

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the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

Dated: July 14, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

f By  #42874

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